



## FY 2014-15 Tennessee Judicial Weighted Caseload Study Update

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### Key Points

State law requires the Comptroller of the Treasury to update the judicial weighted caseload study annually to compare the state's judicial resources with an estimate of the judicial resources needed. This update provides estimates based on cases filed in FY 2015.

**The state has an estimated net excess of 0.78 judges for FY 2015.** The weighted caseload update for FY 2014 showed an estimated net *deficit* of 2.73 full-time equivalent (FTE) judges and an estimated net *deficit* of 5.13 judges for FY 2013. Overall, FY 2015 filings decreased from FY 2014 by 8,352 cases (4 percent).

### Yearly Trend in Number of Judicial Resources (Full-Time Equivalent Judges)

State Net FTE Judges	2007 Model				2013 Model		
	FY 09	FY 10	FY 11	FY 12	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15
Total Judicial Resources	152.00	152.00	152.00	152.00	152.00	152.00	152.00
Estimated Judicial Resources Needed	150.29	150.94	148.55	145.35	157.13	154.73	151.22
Net excess or deficit in Judicial Resources <sup>(a)</sup>	<b>1.71</b>	<b>1.06</b>	<b>3.45</b>	<b>6.65</b>	<b>-5.13</b>	<b>-2.73</b>	<b>0.78</b>

Note: (a) Workers' compensation cases were excluded from the estimated judge need beginning in FY2013.

Source: Calculations by Offices of Research and Education Accountability based on data provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC).

The 2015 update also includes yearly trend data for each of the state's judicial districts. (See [Exhibit 4](#) and [Appendix C](#).)

The estimated number of FTE judges that courts need is calculated by multiplying the total number of case filings by case weights (average minutes per case for each type of case) and dividing that number by the judges' annual availability for case-specific work.

The quantitative weighted caseload model can approximate judicial workload and the need for judicial resources, but it has limitations. Other factors, such as availability of judicial support staff and local legal practices, also affect judicial resources.

## Introduction and Background

The 1997 appropriations bill passed by the General Assembly required the Comptroller's Office to conduct a judicial weighted caseload study to provide policymakers an objective means to determine the need for judicial resources.<sup>1</sup> The Comptroller's Office contracted with the National Center for State Courts in 1998 to conduct a time study to determine the case weights that are used to calculate workload and full-time equivalent judges (FTE judges) needed by each judicial district. To account for changing laws and practices, the Comptroller's Office contracted with the National Center for State Courts in 2007 and 2013 to develop a revised weighted caseload model for Tennessee's general jurisdiction trial judges based on a new time study and case filings.<sup>2, 3</sup> Regular updates are designed to produce a more current and accurate gauge of the need for judicial resources throughout the state.<sup>4</sup>

*Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA)* 16-2-513 requires the Comptroller of the Treasury to update the judicial weighted caseload study annually to assess the workload and need for judicial resources, or FTE judges. This update provides estimates based on cases filed in FY 2015 using the revised 2013 model.

The estimated number of FTE judges that courts need is calculated by multiplying the total number of case filings by case weights (average minutes per case for each type of case) and dividing that number by the judges' annual availability for case-specific work.

The quantitative weighted caseload model can approximate judicial workload and the need for judicial resources, but it has limitations. Other factors, such as availability of judicial support staff and local legal practices, also affect judicial resources.

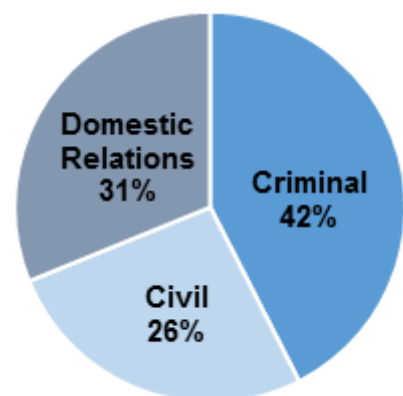
## Analysis and Conclusions

### Case Filings

In FY 2015, 202,058 cases were filed in Tennessee's state courts. Criminal cases accounted for 42 percent of cases, followed by domestic relations cases at 31 percent and civil cases at 26 percent. (See [Exhibit 1](#).)

Overall, filings decreased from the previous year by 8,352 cases (4 percent). Criminal cases decreased by about 5 percent, civil cases decreased by about 3 percent, and domestic relations cases decreased by about 4 percent. The largest changes (over 1,000 cases) included decreases in the

**Exhibit 1: Filings by Case Type, FY 2015**



Notes: (a) Workers' compensation cases will not be filed in state trial courts for injuries incurred on or after July 1, 2014. Workers' compensation cases are included in the number of cases filed, but these cases were excluded from the estimated judge need beginning in FY 2013.  
(b) Chart does not total 100 percent due to rounding.

Source: Chart produced by Offices of Research and Education Accountability staff with data provided by the Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC).

**Exhibit 2: Changes in Trial Court Cases Filings by Case Type, FY 2013 to FY 2015**

Case Type	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15	Change FY14 to FY 15	Percent Change
<b>Criminal</b>	<b>89,677</b>	<b>90,096</b>	<b>85,847</b>	<b>-4,249</b>	<b>-4.7%</b>
First Degree Murder	540	606	675	69	11.4%
Post Conviction Relief	561	482	486	4	0.8%
Felony A&B	6,931	7,058	6,913	-145	-2.1%
Felony (C,D,E)	33,680	32,432	31,063	-1,369	-4.2%
DUI	3,661	3,301	3,321	20	0.6%
Recovery (Drug) Court <sup>(a)</sup>	1,012	1,012	1,103	91	9.0%
Criminal Appeals (including juvenile delinquency)	376	404	297	-107	-26.5%
Misdemeanor	9,252	10,062	9,367	-695	-6.9%
Other Petitions, Motions, Writs	1,998	2,076	1,806	-270	-13.0%
Other Petitions, Motions, Writs-Prison Districts	3,065	2,963	2,804	-159	-5.4%
Probation Violation	28,601	29,700	28,012	-1,688	-5.7%
<b>Civil</b>	<b>54,474</b>	<b>54,806</b>	<b>53,271</b>	<b>-1,535</b>	<b>-2.8%</b>
Administrative Hearings <sup>(b)</sup>	404	382	420	38	9.9%
Contract/Debt/Specific Performance	5,917	6,084	5,413	-671	-11.0%
Damages/Tort	9,876	9,856	9,777	-79	-0.8%
Guardianship/Conservatorship	2,225	2,239	2,263	24	1.1%
Judicial Hospitalization	641	643	659	16	2.5%
Juvenile Court Appeal (Civil)	193	223	195	-28	-12.6%
Medical Malpractice	385	376	356	-20	-5.3%
Probate/Trust	13,168	13,426	13,820	394	2.9%
Other General Civil	12,396	12,228	12,307	79	0.6%
Real Estate	1,662	1,479	1,487	8	0.5%
Workers Compensation <sup>(c)</sup>	7,607	7,870	6,574	-1,296	-16.5%
<b>Domestic Relations</b>	<b>67,510</b>	<b>65,508</b>	<b>62,940</b>	<b>-2,568</b>	<b>-3.9%</b>
Child Support	12,704	12,758	11,409	-1,349	-10.6%
Divorce with Children	12,871	12,014	11,997	-17	-0.1%
Divorce without Children	16,905	16,172	16,118	-54	-0.3%
Residential Parenting	2,228	2,276	2,046	-230	-10.1%
Protection of Children	3,900	4,010	3,923	-87	-2.2%
Orders of Protection	8,042	8,128	8,105	-23	-0.3%
Contempt	8,483	8,141	7,786	-355	-4.4%
Other Domestic Relations	2,377	2,009	1,556	-453	-22.5%
<b>Total Filings</b>	<b>211,661</b>	<b>210,410</b>	<b>202,058</b>	<b>-8,352</b>	<b>-4.0%</b>

Notes: (a) Workload is based on the FY 2015 capacity or average daily population of the Recovery (Drug) Courts.

(b) A separate weight for Administrative Appeals was developed for District 20 (Davidson County) in the 2013 time study to reflect additional time required for complex appeals from administrative hearings handled in District 20. Administrative Appeals in other counties are based on the total time reported for those cases in the 2013 time study.

(c) Workers' compensation cases will not be filed in state trial courts for injuries incurred on or after July 1, 2014. Workers' compensation cases are included in the number of cases filed, but these cases were excluded from the estimated judge need beginning in FY 2013.

Source: Calculations by Offices of Research and Education Accountability staff based on data provided by the AOC.

number of probation violations (1,688 cases); C, D, and E felony cases (1,369); child support (1,349); and workers compensation (1,296). The number of misdemeanors and contract/debt/specific performance filings decreased substantially (over 500 cases each). Probate filings increased by 394, the only case type with an increase greater than 100. An additional 69 first degree murder cases, which carry a high case weight, were filed. [Exhibit 2](#) shows the changes in case filings by type of case.

### **Full Time Equivalent Judges**

**Based on FY 2015 case filing data and workload, the state has an estimated net excess of 0.78 FTE judges.** (See [Exhibit 3](#).) The weighted caseload update for FY 2014 showed an estimated net deficit of 2.73 FTE judges and 5.13 FTE judges in FY 2013.

[Exhibit 4](#) shows the estimated deficit or excess of FTE judges by district over time<sup>5, 6</sup> According to the weighted caseload model, three districts show an estimated need of 0.8 (rounded) or more FTE judges in FY 2015:

- District 16 (Cannon and Rutherford counties) shows a need for 1.17 judges in FY 2014 and 2015, and showed a need for 1.28 judges in FY 2013.
- District 19 (Montgomery and Robertson counties) shows a need for 2.77 FTE judges in FY 2015 and showed a need for 2.89 judges in FY 2014. Prior to the FY 2013 revised model, District 19 showed a need for more than one judge for seven years. This is the only district that showed a need for at least one judge both before and after the 2013 revision. In 2015, the General Assembly created a new circuit court judgeship for Judicial District 19.<sup>7</sup> The judge was sworn in October 30, 2015.
- District 22 (Giles, Lawrence, Maury, and Wayne counties) shows a need for 0.8 judges (rounded) in FY 2015, and showed a need for 1.05 judges in FY 2014 and 1.26 judges in FY 2013.

### **Exhibit 3: Yearly Trend in Number of Judicial Resources (FTE Judges)**

	2007 Model				2013 Model		
State Net FTE Judges	FY 09	FY 10	FY 11	FY 12	FY 13	FY 14	FY 15
Total Judicial Resources	152.00	152.00	152.00	152.00	152.00	152.00	152.00
Estimated Judicial Resources Needed	150.29	150.94	148.55	145.35	157.13	154.73	151.22
Net excess or deficit in Judicial Resources <sup>(a)</sup>	1.71	1.06	3.45	6.65	-5.13	-2.73	0.78

Note: (a) Workers' compensation cases will not be filed in state trial courts for injuries incurred on or after July 1, 2014. Workers' compensation cases are included in the number of cases filed, but these cases were excluded from the estimated judge need beginning in FY 2013. The state net FTE judges associated with workers' compensation cases was estimated as 3.95 in FY 13, 4.08 in FY 14, and 3.41 in FY 15. (See [Appendix C](#).)

(b) See [Appendix A](#) for changes in design and assumptions from 2007 to 2013 Tennessee Trial Courts Judicial Weighted Caseload Models.

Source: Calculations by Offices of Research and Education Accountability based on data provided by the AOC.

According to the weighted caseload model, five districts show an estimated excess of 0.8 (rounded) or more FTE judges in FY 2015:

- District 9 (Loudon, Meigs, Morgan, and Roane counties) shows an excess of 0.85 judges in FY 2015 and 0.80 judges in FY 2014. Prior to the FY 2013 revised model, District 9 showed an excess of approximately one judge for seven years.
- District 14 (Coffee County) shows an excess of 0.8 judges (rounded) in FY 2015 and 0.82 judges in FY 2014.
- District 20 (Davidson County) shows an excess of 1.07 judges in FY 2015 and 0.8 (rounded) judges in FY 2014. This estimate does not include the 1.65 FTE judicial workload associated with workers compensation cases in FY 2015 in District 20. The FTE judges associated with worker compensation cases in FY 2015 for all other districts totaled 1.76 FTE judges, ranging from 0.01 to 0.4 FTE judges per district. Workers' compensation cases were excluded from the estimated judge need beginning in FY 2013. (See [Appendix C](#).)
- District 24 (Benton, Carroll, Decatur, Hardin, and Henry counties) shows an excess of 0.95 judges in FY 2015, and has shown an excess of 0.80 or more judges since FY 2012.
- District 30 (Shelby County) shows an excess of 1.37 judges in FY 2015, compared to an excess of 1.25 judges in FY 2014, and 2.76 judges in FY 2013.

**Exhibit 4: Difference between Actual Number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Judges and Need for FTE Judges by District, FY 2011 – FY 2015**

Judicial District (Counties)	2007 Model		2013 Model		
	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
District 1 (Carter, Johnson, Unicoi, and Washington)	0.36	0.54	0.27	-0.32	0.23
District 2 (Sullivan)	0.78	0.64	0.10	0.37	0.31
District 3 (Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, and Hawkins)	0.60	0.86	0.44	0.28	0.25
District 4 (Cocke, Grainger, Jefferson, and Sevier)	-0.33	-0.26	-1.01	-0.89	-0.54
District 5 (Blount)	0.20	0.04	-0.26	0.01	0.06
District 6 (Knox)	0.21	0.36	-0.42	0.11	0.43
District 7 (Anderson)	-0.17	-0.04	-0.11	-0.18	0.23
District 8 (Campbell, Claiborne, Fentress, Scott, and Union)	-0.44	-0.26	-0.34	-0.08	-0.11
District 9 (Loudon, Meigs, Morgan, and Roane)	0.87	0.80	0.64	0.80	0.85
District 10 (Bradley, McMinn, Monroe, and Polk)	0.04	-0.28	-0.29	-0.42	-0.13
District 11 (Hamilton)	0.94	1.07	-0.47	0.32	0.08
District 12 (Bledsoe, Franklin, Grundy, Marion, Rhea, and Sequatchie)	-0.39	-0.39	-0.96	-0.73	-0.47
District 13 (Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, and White)	-0.04	-0.09	-0.61	-0.58	-0.55
District 14 (Coffee)	0.54	0.60	0.61	0.82	0.77
District 15 ( Jackson, Macon, Smith, Trousdale, and Wilson)	0.46	0.27	0.18	0.10	0.37
District 16 (Cannon and Rutherford)	-0.59	-0.45	-1.28	-1.17	-1.17
District 17 (Bedford, Lincoln, Marshall, and Moore)	0.75	1.06	0.52	0.52	0.43
District 18 (Sumner)	-0.49	-0.29	-0.59	-0.46	-0.63
District 19 (Montgomery and Robertson)	-1.58	-2.04	-2.75	-2.89	-2.77
District 20 (Davidson)	-1.20	-0.94	0.06	0.79	1.07
District 21 (Hickman, Lewis, Perry, and Williamson)	-0.79	-0.62	-0.54	-0.41	-0.24
District 22 (Giles, Lawrence, Maury, and Wayne)	-1.04	-0.53	-1.26	-1.05	-0.76
District 23 (Cheatham, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys, and Stewart)	-0.24	-0.28	-1.01	-0.71	-0.64
District 24 (Benton, Carroll, Decatur, Hardin, and Henry)	0.61	0.85	0.81	0.92	0.95
District 25 (Fayette, Hardeman, Lauderdale, McNairy, and Tipton)	0.14	0.34	-0.19	-0.08	0.18
District 26 (Chester, Henderson, and Madison)	0.10	0.40	-0.08	-0.01	0.14
District 27 (Obion and Weakley)	0.64	0.36	0.26	0.45	0.59
District 28 (Crockett, Gibson, and Haywood)	0.53	0.54	0.37	0.44	0.57
District 29 (Dyer and Lake)	0.53	0.59	0.31	0.36	0.24
District 30 (Shelby)	2.73	4.03	2.76	1.25	1.37
District 31 (Van Buren and Warren)	-0.30	-0.24	-0.31	-0.27	-0.32
<b>Statewide Excess or Deficit FTE Judges</b>	<b>3.45</b>	<b>6.65</b>	<b>-5.13</b>	<b>-2.73</b>	<b>0.78</b>

Source: Calculations by Offices of Research and Accountability staff based on data provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC).

## **Appendix A: Changes in Design and Assumptions from 2007 to 2013 Tennessee Trial Courts Judicial Weighted Caseload Models**

In 2013, the National Center for State Courts worked with selected Tennessee trial court judges and staff with the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Comptroller's Office to develop a revised model to estimate the total judicial officer demand based on cases filed. Tennessee judges reported their time for six weeks out of an 11-week period in the summer of 2013, which was used to determine the average time spent on case-related and non-case-related activities statewide. Based on the 2013 time study, new case weights were assigned to each case type in order to more accurately estimate judicial need throughout the state.<sup>A</sup>

Changes made to the model in 2013 include:

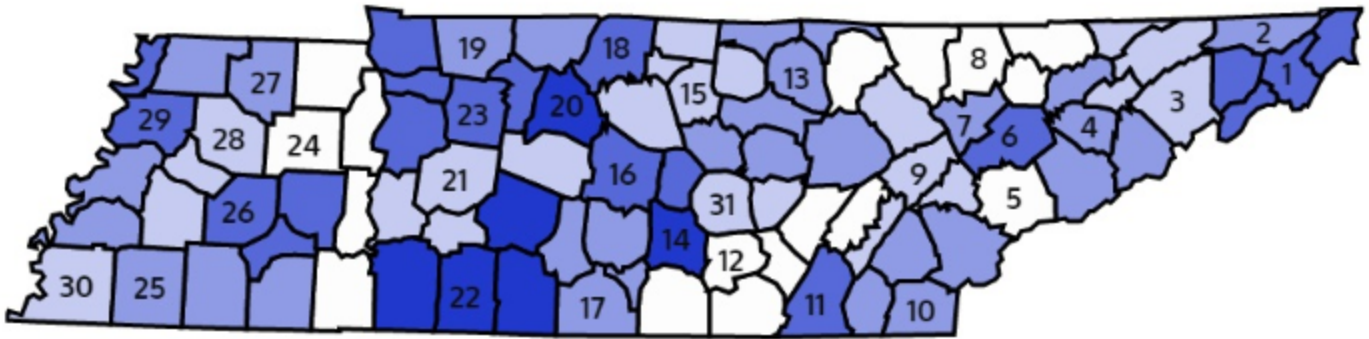
- The case type First Degree Murder was separated from the Major Felony case type to account for the greater average judge time required for First Degree Murder cases.
- Separate case types and average times required were added for post-conviction relief, residential parenting, and domestic relations contempt cases to better reflect the judge time required for these cases.
- A separate case weight was added for Other Petitions, Motions, and Writs cases for districts with a state prison to reflect the additional time required for post-conviction relief cases including habeas corpus petitions from state prisoners.
- A separate weight for Administrative Appeals was developed for District 20 (Davidson County) to reflect the additional time required for complex appeals from administrative hearings handled in District 20. Administrative Appeals in other counties are based on the total time reported for those cases.
- Judge availability is based on an eight-hour day; earlier models were based on a 7.5 hour day.
- Due to changes in state law, workers' compensation cases will no longer be filed in state courts for injuries incurred on or after July 1, 2014. Workers' compensation cases are included in the number of cases filed, but these cases were excluded from the estimated judge need beginning in FY 2013.

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<sup>A</sup> A complete report describing the process and the 2013 revised model is available at <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/Repository/RE/NCSC%20Judicial%202013.pdf>.



## Appendix B: Tennessee Judicial Districts



- District 1 – Carter, Johnson, Unicoi, and Washington Counties
- District 2 – Sullivan County
- District 3 – Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, and Hawkins Counties
- District 4 – Cocke, Grainger, Jefferson, and Sevier Counties
- District 5 – Blount County
- District 6 – Knox County
- District 7 – Anderson County
- District 8 – Campbell, Claiborne, Fentress, Scott, and Union Counties
- District 9 – Loudon, Meigs, Morgan, and Roane Counties
- District 10 – Bradley, McMinn, Monroe, and Polk Counties
- District 11 – Hamilton County
- District 12 – Bledsoe, Franklin, Grundy, Marion, Rhea, and Sequatchie Counties
- District 13 – Clay, Cumberland, DeKalb, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, and White Counties
- District 14 – Coffee County
- District 15 – Jackson, Macon, Smith, Trousdale, and Wilson Counties
- District 16 – Cannon and Rutherford Counties
- District 17 – Bedford, Lincoln, Marshall, and Moore Counties
- District 18 – Sumner County
- District 19 – Montgomery and Robertson Counties
- District 20 – Davidson County
- District 21 – Hickman, Lewis, Perry, and Williamson Counties
- District 22 – Giles, Lawrence, Maury, and Wayne Counties
- District 23 – Cheatham, Dickson, Houston, Humphreys, and Stewart Counties
- District 24 – Benton, Carroll, Decatur, Hardin, and Henry Counties
- District 25 – Fayette, Hardeman, Lauderdale, McNairy, and Tipton Counties
- District 26 – Chester, Henderson, and Madison Counties
- District 27 – Obion and Weakley Counties
- District 28 – Crockett, Gibson, and Haywood Counties
- District 29 – Dyer and Lake Counties
- District 30 – Shelby County
- District 31 – Van Buren and Warren Counties



## Appendix C: Tennessee Judicial Weighted Caseload Update, FY 2015, Case Filings per Judicial District

Case Filings per Judicial District													
	Case Type	Case Weight	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Criminal	First Degree Murder	776	7	9	8	10	2	28	4	9	7	10	
	Post Conviction Relief	381	6	21	2	16	6	22	3	6	1	18	
	Felony A&B	157	150	99	178	140	29	251	62	69	68	173	
	Felony (C, D, E)	45	1,038	1,017	1,053	1,409	424	1,198	387	723	488	1,008	
	DUI	89	76	68	95	174	49	83	51	121	84	90	
	Recovery (Drug) Court **	167				40	68		36	40		40	
	Criminal Appeals (incl. juvenile delinquency)	11	13	6	1	3	1	2	3	1	1	4	
	Misdemeanor	29	245	213	317	639	96	184	94	156	74	166	
	Other Petitions,Motions, Writs	28		170	112	98	23	124	4	36		99	
	Other Petitions,Motions, Writs-Prison Districts	57	59								16		
Probation Violation	18	1,109	1,348	675	1,511	925	1,119	423	858	391	1,059		
General Civil/Other	Administrative Hearings *	204	2	0	20	7	1	13	4	27	5	23	
	Contract/Debt/Specific Performance	104	531	140	164	284	89	589	27	125	85	129	
	Damages/Tort	135	261	137	206	308	144	855	115	179	150	301	
	Guardianship/Conservatorship	70	51	61	79	30	11	451	29	35	33	54	
	Judicial Hospitalization	19	1	11	1	0	11	0	0	1	0	0	
	Juvenile Court Appeal (Civil)	287	1	1	1	7	3	40	2	2	6	5	
	Medical Malpractice	1320	7	16	2	2	1	31	3	2	1	11	
	Probate/Trust	24	698	579	742	210	0	1,455	282	364	276	514	
	Other General Civil	58	344	358	379	444	174	634	133	107	99	385	
	Real Estate	259	50	37	41	65	18	125	7	56	76	45	
Workers Compensation	0	56	33	82	67	37	857	77	98	46	121		
Domestic Relations	Child Support	20	275	186	842	973	623	603	197	206	377	514	
	Divorce with Children	106	430	298	450	468	185	786	137	213	70	486	
	Divorce without Children	40	665	470	594	627	218	1,104	194	262	79	680	
	Residential Parenting	108	60	85	63	66	24	192	3	7	14	76	
	Protection of Children (paternity,adoption,legitimation,surrender,TPR	65	206	71	170	141	131	310	125	86	65	202	
	Orders of Protection	32	37	166	187	506	0	2,151	80	4	69	581	
	Contempt	14	279	253	289	469	102	298	437	5	243	490	
	Other Domestic Relations	73	115	13	66	52	8	60	162	25	16	25	
	Total Filings			6,772	5,866	6,819	8,766	3,403	13,565	3,081	3,823	2,840	7,309
	Workload (Weights x Filings)			379,987	298,502	344,079	433,828	164,000	784,962	149,615	214,423	154,179	390,931
Judge Year (210 days per year, 8 hrs per day)			100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	
Average District Travel per year			4,830	3,465	11,907	6,111	42	2,373	0	15,393	12,789	8,148	
Non-case related Time (78 minutes/day)			16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	
Availability for Case-Specific Work			79,590	80,955	72,513	78,309	84,378	82,047	84,420	69,027	71,631	76,272	
# Judges			5	4	5	5	2	10	2	3	3	5	
Total Judicial Officer Demand			4.77	3.69	4.75	5.54	1.94	9.57	1.77	3.11	2.15	5.13	
FTE Deficit or Excess			0.23	0.31	0.25	-0.54	0.06	0.43	0.23	-0.11	0.85	-0.13	
Criminal Judges Needed			1.45	1.45	1.59	2.17	0.75	1.95	0.62	1.32	0.78	1.69	
Civil Judges Needed			1.93	1.27	1.49	1.62	0.55	4.48	0.50	1.13	0.94	1.64	
Domestic Relations Judges Needed			1.40	0.96	1.67	1.75	0.64	3.14	0.65	0.66	0.43	1.80	
Child Support Referee			No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	

Source: National Center for State Courts, 2013. Data on Filings provided by the Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts.

\* The 20th Judicial district is statutorily mandated jurisdiction in UAPA Administrative Hearing cases. A case weight of 496 minutes is used in this district.

\*\* Workload is based on the FY2015 capacity or average daily population reported by state-level Recovery Drug Court administrators.

Workers Compensation	41	56	33	82	67	37	857	77	98	46	121
Judicial workload associated with Workers Comp. cases (minutes)		2,296	1,353	3,362	2,747	1,517	35,137	3,157	4,018	1,886	4,961
Judicial FTE associated with Workers Comp. cases		0.03	0.02	0.05	0.04	0.02	0.43	0.04	0.06	0.03	0.07

Note: Workers' compensation cases will not be filed in state trial courts for injuries incurred on or after July 1, 2014. Workers' compensation cases are excluded from the estimated judge need beginning in FY 2013.

		Case Filings per Judicial District										
Case Type		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Criminal	First Degree Murder	48	9	12	2	7	30	6	11	37	121	3
	Post Conviction Relief	10	3	7	1	2	9	19	10	35	63	10
	Felony A&B	415	163	206	95	130	309	132	196	268	938	126
	Felony (C, D, E)	1773	798	1080	372	905	1141	366	759	1121	2819	741
	DUI	245	57	278	16	96	151	0	39	131	210	164
	Recovery (Drug) Court **	80	80			25	85		50		213	56
	Criminal Appeals (incl. juvenile delinquency)	74	1	10	2	2	7	3	16	33	64	6
	Misdemeanor	877	230	874	71	539	490	20	114	560	647	234
	Other Petitions, Motions, Writs	32		120	33	93	56	195	14	190		
	Other Petitions, Motions, Writs-Prison Districts		17								443	112
General Civil/Other	Probation Violation	1219	856	1545	273	695	1090	132	560	925	2957	682
	Administrative Hearings *	23	2	8	1	10	2	13	0	16	143	26
	Contract/Debt/Specific Performance	290	66	127	33	111	155	54	139	154	744	218
	Damages/Tort	579	193	247	93	236	444	92	212	386	1498	265
	Guardianship/Conservatorship	302	45	86	15	60	35	22	77	60	315	105
	Judicial Hospitalization	220	5	5	0	5	7	2	1	0	302	2
	Juvenile Court Appeal (Civil)	2	22	10	0	4	8	2	1	7	15	8
	Medical Malpractice	43	3	8	0	2	15	1	4	0	58	2
	Probate/Trust	905	468	427	166	597	68	405	703	454	1695	539
	Other General Civil	823	230	238	144	202	741	261	322	439	1584	394
Domestic Relations	Real Estate	107	52	99	14	47	32	20	28	45	121	54
	Workers Compensation	430	49	114	20	84	152	76	39	67	3347	57
	Child Support	204	681	295	112	134	396	441	328	1031	845	367
	Divorce with Children	628	309	385	127	276	680	274	394	885	848	471
	Divorce without Children	923	414	396	149	428	827	355	431	1153	1302	439
	Residential Parenting	111	58	71	1	86	194	95	119	160	43	75
	Protection of Children											
	(paternity, adoption, legitimation, surrender, TPR)	260	106	167	36	146	188	62	117	180	137	115
	Orders of Protection	818	147	6	2	38	622	40	509	7	1450	9
	Contempt	533	318	47	88	41	249	409	112	315	555	445
	Other Domestic Relations	271	181	24	12	23	46	14	18	18	202	24
	<b>Total Filings</b>	<b>12,245</b>	<b>5,563</b>	<b>6,892</b>	<b>1,878</b>	<b>5,024</b>	<b>8,229</b>	<b>3,511</b>	<b>5,323</b>	<b>8,677</b>	<b>23,679</b>	<b>5,749</b>
	<b>Workload (Weights x Filings)</b>	<b>752,963</b>	<b>294,462</b>	<b>375,387</b>	<b>102,416</b>	<b>273,862</b>	<b>516,721</b>	<b>186,118</b>	<b>305,091</b>	<b>505,890</b>	<b>1,408,636</b>	<b>333,245</b>
	Judge Year (210 days per year, 8 hrs per day)	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800
	Average District Travel per year	42	18,564	16,758	987	9,030	630	11,991	462	9,744	1,218	5,817
	Non-case related Time (78 minutes/day)	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380
	<b>Availability for Case-Specific Work</b>	<b>84,378</b>	<b>65,856</b>	<b>67,662</b>	<b>83,433</b>	<b>75,390</b>	<b>83,790</b>	<b>72,429</b>	<b>83,958</b>	<b>74,676</b>	<b>83,202</b>	<b>78,603</b>
	# Judges	9	4	5	2	4	5	3	3	4	18	4
	Total Judicial Officer Demand	8.92	4.47	5.55	1.23	3.63	6.17	2.57	3.63	6.77	16.93	4.24
	<b>FTE Deficit or Excess</b>	<b>0.08</b>	<b>-0.47</b>	<b>-0.55</b>	<b>0.77</b>	<b>0.37</b>	<b>-1.17</b>	<b>0.43</b>	<b>-0.63</b>	<b>-2.77</b>	<b>1.07</b>	<b>-0.24</b>
	Criminal Judges Needed	3.20	1.69	2.58	0.51	1.47	2.26	0.79	1.23	2.47	6.54	1.38
	Civil Judges Needed	3.47	1.29	1.74	0.40	1.22	1.84	0.75	1.15	1.68	7.49	1.60
	Domestic Relations Judges Needed	2.25	1.50	1.24	0.32	0.95	2.06	1.03	1.25	2.62	2.90	1.26
	Child Support Referee	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No

Source: National Center for State Courts, 2013. Data on Filings provided by the Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts.

\* The 20th Judicial district is statutorily mandated jurisdiction in UAPA Administrative Hearing cases. A case weight of 496 minutes is used in this district.

\*\* Workload is based on the FY2015 capacity or average daily population reported by state-level Recovery Drug Court administrators.

Workers Compensation	430	49	114	20	84	152	76	39	67	3347	57
Judicial workload associated with Workers Comp. cases (minutes)	17,630	2,009	4,674	820	3,444	6,232	3,116	1,599	2,747	137,227	2,337
Judicial FTE associated with Workers Comp. cases	0.21	0.03	0.07	0.01	0.05	0.07	0.04	0.02	0.04	1.65	0.03

Note: Workers' compensation cases will not be filed in state trial courts for injuries incurred on or after July 1, 2014.

Workers' compensation cases are excluded from the estimated judge need beginning in FY 2013.

**Case Filings per Judicial District**

		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Totals
Criminal	Case Type											
	First Degree Murder	16	5	10	22	34	0	9	8	186	5	675
	Post Conviction Relief	18	10	3	3	23	4	14	6	126	9	486
	Felony A&B	289	138	141	136	168	103	68	69	1544	60	6,913
	Felony (C, D, E)	1059	700	389	796	571	249	270	370	5831	208	31,063
	DUI	258	93	25	84	62	6	20	9	445	41	3,321
	Recovery (Drug) Court **		50		30	35	50		20		105	1,103
	Criminal Appeals (incl. juvenile delinquency)	11	4	2	6	0	1	6	3	11	0	297
	Misdemeanor	521	302	38	86	156	23	64	47	1145	145	9,367
	Other Petitions, Motions, Writs		201	25		24	6	139			12	1,806
General Civil/Other	Other Petitions, Motions, Writs-Prison Districts	221			18				46	1872		2,804
	Probation Violation	1320	974	426	1125	649	198	170	320	2102	376	28,012
	Administrative Hearings *	5	1	1	9	0	3	0	2	51	2	420
	Contract/Debt/Specific Performance	104	70	54	94	152	26	44	13	586	16	5,413
	Damages/Tort	149	114	119	174	219	26	65	41	1920	49	9,777
	Guardianship/Conservatorship	54	33	20	70	10	30	24	41	3	22	2,263
	Judicial Hospitalization	1	0	0	81	2	0	1	0	0	0	659
	Juvenile Court Appeal (Civil)	9	2	1	6	2	0	0	4	24	0	195
	Medical Malpractice	3	4	3	2	15	1	0	1	111	4	356
	Probate/Trust	573	179	374	330	105	200	256	97	3	156	13,820
Domestic Relations	Other General Civil	275	194	167	282	336	96	97	532	1782	111	12,307
	Real Estate	50	38	34	29	24	12	17	44	89	11	1,487
	Workers Compensation	113	32	44	31	100	124	31	13	144	33	6,574
	Child Support	508	293	56	100	130	142	305	40	129	76	11,409
	Divorce with Children	407	306	145	312	456	126	133	124	1121	67	11,997
	Divorce without Children	424	406	179	772	756	149	161	134	1355	72	16,118
	Residential Parenting	52	25	44	37	127	21	18	30	86	3	2,046
	Protection of Children (paternity, adoption, legitimation, surrender, TPR)	129	138	56	82	76	42	22	21	289	47	3,923
	Orders of Protection	214	55	6	44	11	0	1	81	0	264	8,105
	Contempt	197	602	214	116	127	309	64	4	149	27	7,786
	Other Domestic Relations	40	9	5	10	7	38	4	0	67	1	1,556
	<b>Total Filings</b>	<b>7,020</b>	<b>4,978</b>	<b>2,581</b>	<b>4,887</b>	<b>4,377</b>	<b>1,985</b>	<b>2,003</b>	<b>2,120</b>	<b>21,171</b>	<b>1,922</b>	<b>202,058</b>
	<b>Workload (Weights x Filings)</b>	<b>368,585</b>	<b>242,924</b>	<b>150,857</b>	<b>268,439</b>	<b>312,641</b>	<b>100,170</b>	<b>108,253</b>	<b>133,666</b>	<b>1,735,917</b>	<b>110,900</b>	<b>11,901,649</b>
	Judge Year (210 days per year, 8 hrs per day)	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800	100,800
	Average District Travel per year	6,993	17,766	10,731	14,217	3,339	13,545	8,526	8,358	294	672	5,376
	Non-case related Time (78 minutes/day)	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380	16,380
	<b>Availability for Case-Specific Work</b>	<b>77,427</b>	<b>66,654</b>	<b>73,689</b>	<b>70,203</b>	<b>81,081</b>	<b>70,875</b>	<b>75,894</b>	<b>76,062</b>	<b>84,126</b>	<b>83,748</b>	<b>79,044</b>
	# Judges	4	3	3	4	4	2	2	2	22	1	152
	Total Judicial Officer Demand	4.76	3.64	2.05	3.82	3.86	1.41	1.43	1.76	20.63	1.32	151.22
	<b>FTE Deficit or Excess</b>	<b>-0.76</b>	<b>-0.64</b>	<b>0.95</b>	<b>0.18</b>	<b>0.14</b>	<b>0.59</b>	<b>0.57</b>	<b>0.24</b>	<b>1.37</b>	<b>-0.32</b>	<b>0.78</b>
	Criminal Judges Needed	2.41	1.64	0.82	1.59	1.42	0.60	0.60	0.66	10.87	0.70	59.22
	Civil Judges Needed	1.10	0.85	0.75	1.11	1.17	0.33	0.41	0.75	7.26	0.34	52.23
	Domestic Relations Judges Needed	1.25	1.16	0.48	1.13	1.26	0.48	0.41	0.35	2.50	0.28	39.77
	Child Support Referee	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	

Source: National Center for State Courts, 2013. Data on Filings provided by the Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts.

\* The 20th Judicial district is statutorily mandated jurisdiction in UAPA Administrative Hearing cases. A case weight of 496 minutes is used in this district.

\*\* Workload is based on the FY2015 capacity or average daily population reported by state-level Recovery Drug Court administrators.

Workers Compensation	113	32	44	31	100	124	31	13	144	33	6,574
Judicial workload associated with Workers Comp. cases (minutes)	4,633	1,312	1,804	1,271	4,100	5,084	1,271	533	5,904	1,353	269,534
Judicial FTE associated with Workers Comp. cases	0.06	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.05	0.07	0.02	0.01	0.07	0.02	3.41

Note: Workers' compensation cases will not be filed in state trial courts for injuries incurred on or after July 1, 2014.

Workers' compensation cases are excluded from the estimated judge need beginning in FY 2013.

## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Public Acts, 2014, Chapter No. 552, Section 12, Item 35.
- <sup>2</sup> National Center for State Courts, *Tennessee Trial Courts, Judicial Weighted Caseload Study*, 2007, <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/>. See study for a complete explanation of methodology and qualitative issues to consider.
- <sup>3</sup> National Center for State Courts, *Tennessee Trial Courts, Judicial Weighted Caseload Study*, 2013, <http://www.comptroller.tn.gov/>. See study for a complete explanation of methodology and qualitative issues to consider.
- <sup>4</sup> See [Appendix A](#) for a description of changes in design and assumptions from the 2007 to the 2013 Tennessee Trial Courts Judicial Weighted Caseload Model.
- <sup>5</sup> See [Appendix B](#) for a map of Tennessee Judicial Districts.
- <sup>6</sup> See [Appendix C](#) for the detailed calculations of judicial resource need statewide and by judicial district.
- <sup>7</sup> Public Acts, 2015, Chapter No. 437.



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